

maintaining the balance of animal and vegetable life in a confined space was first put forward, the Zoological Society has established a fine collection of marine animals, which has enabled even the general public to appreciate the beauty of these inhabitants of the deep. Mr. Gosse very naturally concludes, that this exhibition will induce many to attempt the formation of Aquaria in their own houses; and his object in publishing this little book is to furnish such persons with the necessary directions for the construction and management of their collections. It is, as he tells us in his preface, founded to a great extent upon the concluding chapter of his larger work upon the Aquarium, a work which, from its entering largely upon the natural history of the animals which may be kept in these artificial rock-pools, and from the expensive nature of its illustrations, is far too costly to be generally available as a guide for beginners.

This little handbook appears to contain every information that can be required for a commencement,—such as the different modes of constructing and fitting up the tanks, the mode of collecting animals and plants to stock them, and of keeping the inhabitants in health in their confined abode. We also find Mr. Gosse's receipt for making artificial sea-water, which, notwithstanding Mr. Warrington's objections to it, appears to answer well, and will no doubt enable many to preserve marine animals in inland situations where they would be unable to procure natural sea-water. The whole of the directions are given in a plain and intelligible style, and the book will doubtless prove highly acceptable to those who interest themselves in marine zoology.

*Popular Geography of Plants, or a Botanical Excursion round the World.* By E. M. C. Edited by C. DAUBENY, M.D. &c. London: Reeve. 1855.

A little work of no great pretensions, and, as such, deserving of a good word. It consists chiefly of gatherings from the narratives of botanical travellers, loosely dovetailed together and supported on the framework of Meyen's Geographical Regions. We think the author has *diluted* a little too much, in the desire to be popular; the mere fact of being sufficiently acquainted with plants to derive any distinct idea from the many names cited, would almost imply an amount of previous knowledge sufficient to form a basis for a little more in the way of general principles. However, tolerable success has been attained in keeping up the spirit of the narrative style adopted,—a matter of some difficulty considering the concision required, and the frequent sudden transitions and changes of scene. We can recommend the work for the reading of persons young or old who have a taste for plants, especially to amateur botanists who have not begun to study in this direction. It is also especially calculated to heighten the interest which ordinary persons may derive from visits to Kew or other botanical gardens.

The illustrations are very bad—so much so, as to act as a terrible 'damper' on the fire of the text.